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# Bücherschau.

## I. Bücherbesprechungen.

Franz Grillparzer, Die Ahnfrau. Edited with introduction, notes and vocabulary, by Frederick W. J. Heuser, A. M. (Tutor in the Germanic Languages and Literatures, Columbia University), and George H. Danton, Ph. D. (Acting Assistant Professor of German, Leland Stanford Jr. University). New York, Henry Holt & Co., 1907. LIX + 257 pp. Cloth, 80 cents.

In publishing Grillparzer's tragedy, "Die Ahnfrau," as a school text, the editors have placed at the disposal of the American student a German drama well worth reading, a drama which presents many qualities to recommend it for class use. There is the treatment of fate, the use of the Spanish trochaic tetrameter verse, a masterful technique, and beauty of verse, that offer a diverse field for study and criticism.

Nowadays, that the idea of reading nineteenth century literature in high schools and colleges has become so deservedly general, we need more editions of Grillparzer, Hebbel, Ludwig, etc., and every addition ought to receive a hearty welcome from the instructors of German.

Such a play as "Die Ahnfrau" will find a place, not only in the larger universities where specialization is possible, but also in the high schools and small college. The work is not intended for specialization, but as a text for regular second and third year reading courses. The drama is of a high literary order, good material for practice in German grammar, if one wishes, and a splendid basis for literary interpretation.

The introduction is a model preface to a school text. We find here what we ought to expect,—a detailed exposition of the author's life and works that will not necessarily add to the knowledge of a specialist, but which is, nevertheless, an adequate sketch that serves as a general introduction for the student to the author whose work has been edited, carefully compiled and presented in an interesting manner. The editors have struck the happy medium between the introduction that is too brief and perfunctory, and the introduction which is so overloaded with knowledge that it frightens off the student. The sketch of Grillparzer's life is, to be sure, popular in tone, but it evinces back of it the most careful research. One reads the literary essay, here presented, with pleasure and acquires an excellent impression of the man Grillparzer, and of his position in the history of German literature.

The task of presenting, within a few pages, adequate information upon the principal works of the author has also been happily solved by the editors. If any objection were to be raised, it is that the contents of the plays are not given in sufficient detail to enable one not acquainted with them to appreciate fully the criticism offered. Here, however, as in the biography of Grillparzer, the essay is exceedingly inspiring both for the instructor and the student.

In the third part, "The Origin and Sources of Die Ahnfrau," the development of the material in Grillparzer's hands is clearly portrayed, without that show of scientific research that often wearies all but the specialist. The same may be said of the fourth part, "The Fate Element in Die Ahnfrau." These essays are based upon scholarly research and presented without pedantic bombast. The editors pursue the correct method of criticism in pointing to internal evidence to support their assertion that this drama, however superior to the other so-called "Fate Tragedies," is none the less a member of that school. The external earmarks of the fate genre are present, —Grillparzer's repeated, disgruntled assertion that his play is no Fate Tragedy does not change the facts of the case,—but the real essence of the Fate tragedy is to be sought within. No matter what the characters do to evade or frustrate the implacable fate that hangs over their house, this fate strides over them relentlessly, and all must finally succumb.

The bibliography that is appended, pp. lii—lix, attests the astounding wide scope of the reading of the editors in preparing this edition. It ,in itself, is a helpful guide to a minute study of Grillparzer's life and works.

The text is clearly and correctly printed. In l. 2116 there is an extra "h" in "führwahr." The notes are very apt. The book does not suffer from the lack of explanations, as is too often the case in school texts, and yet scarcely a helpful suggestion has been overlooked, without being open to the charge of prolixity. The translations of difficult and obscure passages are very correct and suggestive, aiming to interpret rather than merely to translate. The summaries at the close of the acts are also a great improvement over the prevailing method of placing a résumé at the beginning of each act. Thus the student is not robbed of the pleasure and profit of his first impressions, untainted by the views of the editors and teacher.

Some of the notes are not as correctly stated as might be wished. The note to l. 562 is not explicitly stated, and in its present form is misleading and incorrect. L. 692, "auch" only is to be supplied: the inversion stands for the regular condition with "wenn." Ll. 1217-8 should be more explicitly stated. The note to l. 1555 comes rather late, considering that the same construction with "gleich" has occurred frequently before, without being explained in the notes. Ll. 2948-9, the note explaining "selbst ein Mörder" as in apposition with "das" is a misunderstanding of the sentence. "Kenntest," l. 3280, is not formed from the infinitive, but, like the infinitive, is an umlauted form written with "e" instead of the umlauted "a". An interpretative note on l. 146 would be in place, and "die", l. 556, might be referred to its antecedent. Such omissions are rare.

The vocabulary is very carefully and correctly compiled. The following omissions have been noted: l. 254, "obgesieget", l. 488, "langgehegter", l. 170; "Leichnam", l. 833 (stage direction), "umfassend", l. 1218, "erspart", l. 1244, "Aussenwerken", l. 1371, "daransetzen", l. 1983, "Eid", and l. 3109, "Aussenwelt."

The book, as a whole ,is a monument of the most thorough scholarship and painstaking care, and we owe Mr. Heuser and Mr. Danton our deepest gratitude for a text of so high a standard.

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Deutsche Schulerziehung herausgegeben von W. Rein, Jena. Erster und zweiter Band, @ $1.50. München, J. F. Lehmanns Verlag. 1907.

Die Augen der gesamten gebildeten Welt sind auf Deutschland und seine Schulen gerichtet. Tausende von Leuten aller Berufsklassen pilgern nach dem „Vaterlande", das für so viele zum Mekka geworden ist, wo sie wenigstens einmal in ihrem Leben dem Geiste deutscher Kultur huldigen, sich in seinem Lichte eine Weile sonnen wollen. Auch von diesem Lande, von den Vereinigten Staaten, ziehen sie hinüber: vor allen die, welche noch weiterer Bildung bedürftig sind, die sie in unseren entweder mangelhaften oder auch viel zu teuren Universitäten nicht finden können. Denn immer noch steht die Schule Deutschlands als ein Muster da, wenn auch nicht ihrer Organisation wegen, so doch in Hinsicht auf Methode und Resultate. Und diese waren es hauptsächlich — und sie sind es noch —, die nicht nur unsere Studenten locken, sondern auch die Männer und Frauen Amerikas, welche auf dem Felde der Erziehung und des Unterrichtes tätig sind, also unsere Lehrer und Lehrerinnen. Gleich den Ärzten, die es für unbedingt notwendig erachten, ihre hierzulande erworbene Ausbildung in Leipzig, oder Berlin, oder Wien zum Abschluss zu bringen, so hält es auch der moderne Erzieher für unerlässlich, das Schulwesen Deutschlands gründlich kennen zu lernen, und zwar, wenn irgendwie möglich, an Ort und Stelle selbst.

Leider steht dieser direkte Weg nur wenigen offen. Auch in Amerika sind Lehrer und Erzieher nicht auf Rosen gebettet; das Einkommen dieser Leute, die einer bekannten Phrase entsprechend die Zukunft in Händen haben, ist gewöhnlich sehr bescheiden, und wenn dem Manne auch noch eine Familie beschieden ist und die Sorge um die Zukunft der eigenen Kinder obliegt, so bleibt für eine Studienreise nach Europa herzlich wenig übrig. Für diese Leute nun, die sich auf ein Studium zu Hause, auf die Lektüre beschränkt sehen, ist das hier angezeigte Buch von Dr. W. Rein eine wirklich unschätzbare Gabe. Es bietet in jeglicher Hinsicht eine wenn auch etwas gedrängte, so